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Californians to Receive Fire Prevention Fee Billings for Fiscal Year 2012-13

Sacramento – At the direction of CAL FIRE and as mandated by law, later this month, the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) will begin mailing fire prevention fee bills for Fiscal Year 2012-13 to owners of habitable structures located in the State Responsibility Area (SRA).

The BOE will update the billing schedule on its fire prevention fee website. Assembly Bill x1 29 was enacted on July 8, 2011, and requires the BOE to collect the fire prevention fee annually on behalf of CAL FIRE.

Because the Board of Forestry adopted new SRA boundary lines, some property owners will be excluded from a fee assessment in the fiscal year 2013-14 billing cycle; property owners who remain within the SRA boundaries will receive a 2013-14 bill in the spring of 2014. Furthermore, according to Cal Fire, the SRA boundary changes adopted for fiscal year 2013—14 do not affect billings for fiscal 2012-13. Property owners within the SRA during Fiscal Year 2012-13 must pay the fee for that billing cycle.

If property owners believe they should not have received a fire prevention fee bill they are encourage to file a "Petition for Redetermination" with CAL FIRE. They have 30 days from the date printed on the bill to do so. Fee payers may consider paying the full amount to avoid interest charges while CAL FIRE processes their appeal.

Property owners with questions about the fire prevention fee program or the appeals process should contact the Fire Prevention Fee Service Center at 1-888-310-6447.

Property owners with payment-related questions may call the BOE at 1-800-400-7115 and select "fire prevention fee" for assistance. Representatives are available Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except state holidays.

More information: www.boe.ca.gov/taxprograms/fire_prevention_fee_resource.htm

State Board of Equalization • 450 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • 1-800-400-7115

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